

**The claims defining the invention are as follows:-**

1. A jointing system for supporting a plurality of cladding panels relative to a building or building frame, the panels having slots extending along the edges thereof, the jointing system including:-
  - an elongate support member substantially H shaped in cross-section and having a longer inner flange for fastening to the building or building frame, the inner flange being connected by a web to a shorter outer flange to form an elongate recess on each side of the web for receiving sealing means therein;
  - whereby when a cladding panel is supported relative to the building or building frame by the jointing system, the outer flange is received in the slot along the edge of the cladding panel and the sealing means cooperates with the panel to substantially seal the space behind the cladding panel against the ingress of moisture.
2. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the support element is an aluminium extrusion.
3. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sealing means is a beading of sealant.
4. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sealing means is an elongate gasket located in each recess.
5. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the gasket includes longitudinally extending rib means and a longitudinally extending end portion such that on assembly when the outer flange is received in the slot along the edge of the cladding panel, the rib means resiliently engages the inner surface of the cladding panels and the longitudinally extending end portion resiliently engages the inner edge of the cladding panel adjacent the slot.

6. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the web is substantially centrally disposed and the longer inner flange extends at each side thereof beyond the ends of the shorter outer flange sufficiently to allow screws to be fixed therethrough for fastening the support member to the building or building  
5 frame.

7. A jointing system as claimed in Claim 1, and including another elongate support member substantially H shaped in cross-section and having a longer inner flange for fastening to the building or building frame, the inner flange being  
10 connected by a web to a shorter outer flange to form an elongate recess on each side of the web for receiving sealing means therein;

wherein the distance between the outer surfaces of the flanges of this other elongate support member is less than the distance between the outer surfaces of the flanges of the elongate support member defined in claim 1, such  
15 that when the elongate support members orthogonally abut with the outer surface of the longer inner flange of this other elongate support member resting on the inner surface of the longer inner flange of the elongate surface member defined in claim 1, the outer surfaces of the shorter outer flanges are substantially coplanar.

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8. A method of fastening a plurality of cladding panels to a building or building frame, the panels having slots extending along the edges thereof, the method including:-

fastening to the building or building frame a jointing system, the jointing  
25 system having an elongate support member substantially H shaped in cross-section and having a longer inner flange for fastening to the building or building frame, the inner flange being connected by a web to a shorter outer flange to form an elongate recess on each side of the web for receiving sealing means therein, and

30 supporting a cladding panel relative to the building or building frame with the outer flange of the support member received in the slot along the edge of the cladding panel and the sealing means cooperate with the panel to

substantially seal the space behind the cladding panel against the ingress of moisture.

9. A method of fastening a plurality of cladding panels to a building or  
5 building frame as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sealing means is an elongate gasket pre-located in each recess.

10. A method of fastening a plurality of cladding panels to a building or  
building frame as claimed in claim 8, and including:-  
10 inserting a beading of sealant in each recess.